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AIRGRAM

A236

NO.

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TO : Department of State
 DEPT PASS: CINCSO FOR POLAD
 PANAMA

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: November 6, 1970

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: Monthly Report of Incidents:
 September, 1970

REF : REVIEWED BY *Gay* DATE 7 OCT 1971
 PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUMMARY: The number of acts of violence, particularly in the capital, rose sharply in September. Five policemen were killed by gunfire during the month. The bodies of several youths were found in the capital area tortured and murdered; their relatives cast the blame on the government.

1. Incidents of violence against the government sharply increased during September. On September 2, the Third Chief of the Judicial Police successfully escaped an attack in the capital by two youths carrying .45's. Judicial Police Inspector Armando RAMIREZ Che was kidnapped and murdered on September 19 and on the following day an improperly defused bomb exploded in a USAID-supplied patrol car, killing one policeman and wounding a second. On September 23, two radio patrolmen were killed in a shootout with FAR members when investigating a stolen car report. Another Judicial Policeman on a foot patrol in downtown Guatemala was seriously wounded on September 28. On September 30, National Police detective Marco Tulio LEIVA was kidnapped and murdered; "FAR" had been written on his shirt.
2. The month also was marked by other assassinations. On September 5, an Aranista militant in Zacapa was gunned down by bullets. On September 9, an ANACAFE employee was shot in the capital; allegedly "ajusticiado" by the "FAR". Between September 15 and 18, three youths in the capital area disappeared: Julio Hector GARCIA Pinot, a law student said to have been shot and captured by the National and Judicial Police, is still missing; Miguel Angel SOLORZANO, a student who turned up in Mexico the following week claiming to have been abducted and tortured by the Judicial Police; and Guillermo RAMOS Roldan, found detained by the 1st Corps Police under another identity. On September 22, unknowns killed FAR and PGT member,

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 BUREAU OF
 INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
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Cesar Augusto RUANO Arandia, by machinegun fire in front of several witnesses; both the PGT and FAR denied involvement. At the end of the month three youths were killed, evidently because of political motivations. Hilmar Antonio VARGAS, who had a past record of guerrilla activities, was kidnapped only 50 meters from National Police Headquarters on September 26 and found dead two days later a few miles outside the capital. Olegario GARCIA was killed by machinegun fire and left September 25 on the Guatemala-Antigua highway, and the body of a third youth was discovered on an Escuintla farm. Witnesses claimed Judicial Policemen apprehended Vargas and Garcia.

3. In addition, an increase in bomb explosions, mostly of the propaganda variety, took place in the country. In mid-September, a half dozen bombs exploded along Calzada Aguilar Batres in the capital, one of which killed a patrolman (see above). On September 25, at least nine bombs exploded in the capital causing minor damage to LA HORA among other places. In the last week of September, the PGT commemorated its 21st Anniversary (September 27, 1949) by detonating over two dozen propaganda bombs in the capital and other parts of the country.

4. Attacks against two embassies also occurred this month. On September 8 an official U.S. Embassy car driven by National Policeman Marcario Clemente GAMEZ, was intercepted by four armed men who identified themselves as FAR members. After questioning Gamez and seizing the vehicle's weapons, he and the car were released. The following day, a group of armed men tossed bombs and machinegunned the official residence and Embassy of Uruguay, but caused only light damage; FAR later took credit for the attack, made in sympathy with their Uruguayan terrorist colleagues.

5. The relatively high rate of incidents in the South Coast in September caused alarm among area residents. Early in the month, an Escuintla Department coffee plantation owner was shot down by machinegun fire by FAR terrorists. Another ranch employee in that Department was murdered by machinegun fire by six unidentified men dressed in gray uniforms. At the end of the month, two Escuintla ranches were burned down by unknowns causing Q15,000 in damages. Also, a half-dozen unidentified bodies were pulled out of that Department's rivers.

6. Minister of Government Jorge ARENALES denied government involvement in the outbreak of violence, specifically in the cases of Garcia Pinot and Solorzano (see above), and decried the lack of public protest over the government's losses. Several times in September, the Minister claimed that there was a plot afoot to bring about a confrontation between students and the police, but that such a plot would not succeed.

7. COMMENT: The perpetrators of these incidents rarely become publicly identified. However, on the one hand, the police victims are indications of renewed FAR activity. On the other hand, rightist forces within and

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without the government are suspected by some of also being involved in
some of the slayings of late.

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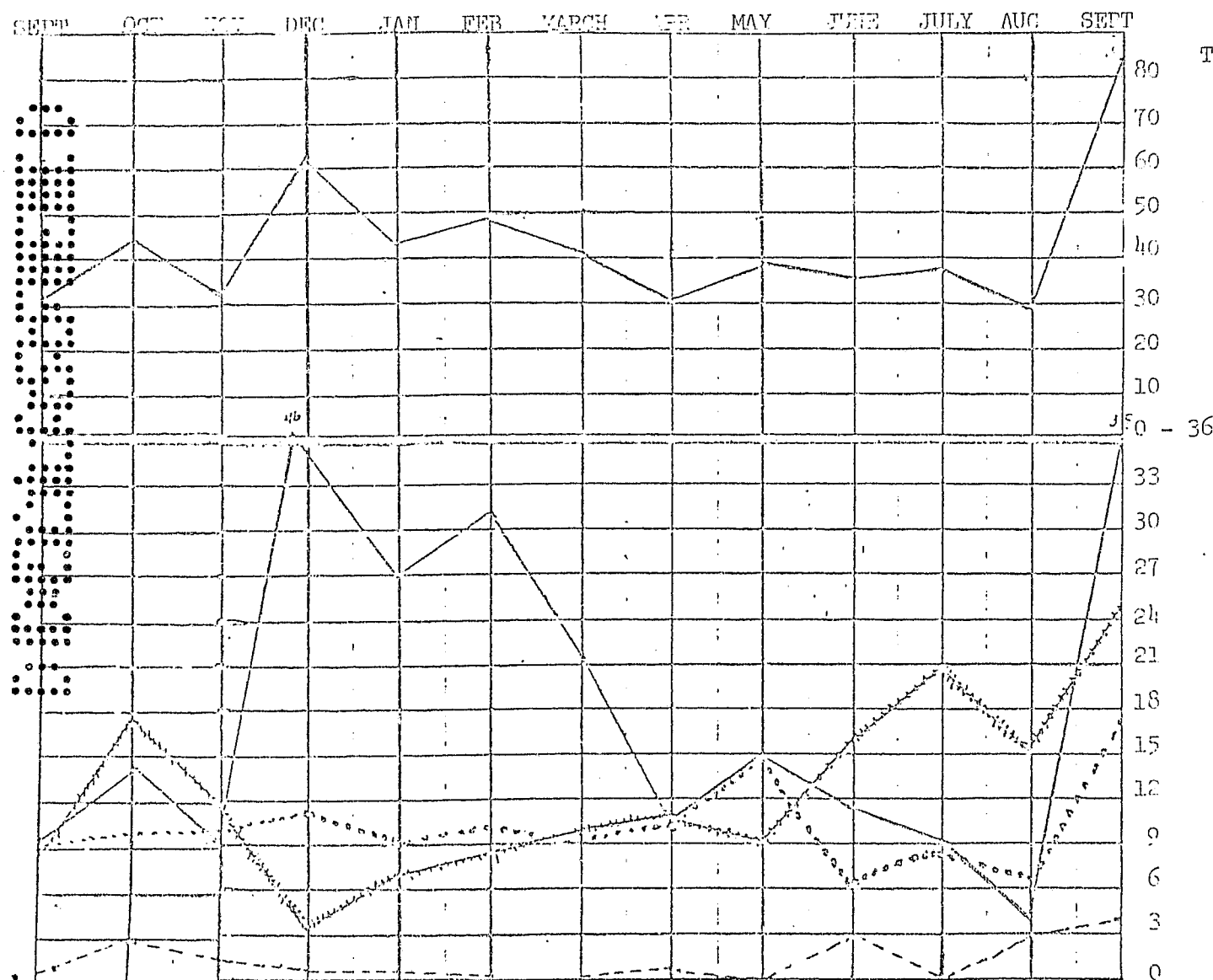
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MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION (1) SEPTEMBER 1969 - SEPTEMBER 1970



Total - 84

Capital 38*(2)

*The 9 Sept. 25 bomb explosions in the capital and the approximately two dozen FGT propaganda bomb explosions in Guatemala City in the last week of Sept. were counted as two incidents

South Coast 25 (3)

Eastern 17 (4)

Highlands 4 (5)

1. For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings and assassinated bodies.
2. Capital Area: Sacatepequez, Guatemala
3. South Coast: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
4. Eastern Region: Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal
5. Highlands: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Solola